

**REMARKS**

In FIGS. 46A-60 of substitute drawing sheets (41/44, 42/44, 43/44, 44/44), stenciled numbers replace handwritten numbers and shade lines have been added to more clearly illustrate surfaces. Minor amendments have been made to the specification to correct grammar. Additionally, a part number was corrected to match its corresponding drawing and an incorrectly placed sentence was moved to its intended location. No new matter is introduced by these amendments.

Minor amendments to claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 18, 19, 20, and 22 correct or improve the correspondence between antecedents and their related references. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to remove the “attachment means” claim limitation and substitute “a planar portion for attaching said conduit casing with a complementary cover portion during subsequent assembly.” The corresponding reference in claim 2 has been deleted as well.

New claims 24-30 are added by this amendment. These claims define oblong-ring pivot bindings that facilitate the construction of binders having extra-thin and ultra-thin covers when closed that are especially useful for binding thin and medium size reports. The oblong-ring pivot bindings may optionally have compressible rings to enable the creation of the binders having ultra-thin covers. These new claims 24-30 are supported by multiple embodiments disclosed in the specification (See FIGS. 49A-49E, 50A-50B, 51A-51B, 52A-52B, 53A-53E, 54A-54K, 55A-55B, 56A-56B, 57A-57B, 58A-58B, 59A-59B and 60).

**AUTHORIZATION**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3562-4000US3. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 3562-4000US3. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Dated: February 23, 2005

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**Amendments to the Drawings:**

Applicant is filing herewith four (4) sheets of formal drawings (sheets 41/44, 42/44, 43/44 and 44/44), containing Figs. 46A-60 for the above-identified patent application. The formal drawings should be substituted for corresponding sheets of formal drawings originally filed with this application. Applicant requests that these formal drawings be accepted.